(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a lot of researches have been conducted in Western countries on the radiation emitting from mobile phones and its-ill-effects on human body;

(d) if so, the doubts raised by the experts in this connection; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINJSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Help to departments in the areas of global competition

232. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government are helping various departments to gain place in the global competition in their respective fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts put in by Government in this direction;

(c) whether the efforts put in by Government to help the departments since its inception have proved fruitful;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (e) The Department of Information Technology (earlier known as Department of Electronics) since its formation, has been helping various departments of the Government of India to gain global competition by adopting information technology in their respective fields through:

(a) Increase in productivity and competitiveness in service provision

(b) Better delivery of social services

(c) Better governance through aspects like transparency etc.

(d) Faster and more informed decision making

(e) Bettor citizen services

2. Illustrative areas of Department of Information Technology (DIT) helping various departments in their respective fields through appropriate support/intervention are:

2.1 Helping India to emerge as a major player in the software service through joint efforts of DIT, other Ministries such as Commerce, Finance and Telecom.

- Precious foreign exchange is earned and employment is generated in this process. This sector is expected to become the largest export revenue earner by the year 2005. In this process, DIT has helped its own mission as well as those of Commerce and Finance.
- The nature of DIT's role has included :

  — policy formulation along with other concerned ministries

  — infrastructure development such as Software Technology Parks of India

  — investment promotion along with other concerned ministries

  — incentives for software industry along with Ministry of Finance

  — manpower development through its agencies, DOEACC, Centre for Electronics Design & Technology of India (CEDTI), IMPACT project, Curriculum development, MCA course formulation etc. by itself as well as alongwith Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)

  — technology development through its organisation such as National Centre for Software Technology (NCST),

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Society for Applied Microware Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER), Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C- MET), Centre for Liquid Crystal Research (CLCR), Electronics Research and Development Centre of India (ER&DCI) and extra mural funding of academic and research institutions including UTs, MSc etc.

— Software development projects in areas such as passenger reservation system for Railways through CMC, ports, stock exchanges etc.

2.2 Other important infrastructural and economic sectors computerization through CMC and NIC.

2.3 E-Governance has been an increasingly important aspect in DITs functioning. It has a Group focused on this area. It has also been interacting with State Governments initiatives and has been helping them through its arm National Informatics Center (NIC) and in the process helping transfer of best practices, scaling up computerization of Central Departmental services etc. G2C (Government to Customer) services are also getting increasing prominence. Many socially disadvantaged sections are also gaining benefits from applications like land records computerization, remote access to Public Distribution System (PDS), birth & death certificates, Telemedicine etc.

2.4 Decision support systems are being provided by various projects, as also consultancy services by NIC, CMC, NCST and C-DAC etc.

2.5 DIT has also been supporting development works of relevance to various departments.

3. In short, DIT has been assisting other departments in their quest for better governance, preparedness to adopt best practices and make their commercial entities to face global competition in their respective fields through:

- awareness creation
- policy support

- consultancy and advisory support
- R&D
- project implementation (such as Community Information Centres for North-East at the block levels)
- Software development (such as Railway Passenger Reservation System of CMC, Banking computerization etc.)

Introduction of Cellone

233. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Cellone has been introduced in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh recently; if so, what are the features thereof;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study before introduction of Cellone;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. All modern features like roaming, Unified Messaging Service (UMS), Short Message Service (SMS), Voice Mail Service (VMS), Intelligent Network Service (INS), Wireless Access Protocol (WAP) etc. are planned to be provided in the Cellone services.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Cellular Service were initially introduced in the form of a pilot project in selected towns and based on the experiences gained therein, case for wider introduction of Cellular Service was undertaken.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.